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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9688
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2366
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5860
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9426
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7045
RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 2387
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2794
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 000817

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP/MLS, DRL, AND IO
PACOM FOR FPA

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KTIP](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: ILO REPORTS INTERNAL CHILD TRAFFICKING CASE

Classified By: Political/Economic Officer Brian Andrews for Reasons 1.4
(b) & (d)

Survivor Details Forced Labor on Plantation near Rangoon

¶1. (C) Rangoon-based International Labor Organization (ILO) representative Steve Marshall told us December 21 the ILO is investigating a reported child trafficking and labor case. According to Marshall, a 12 year old Burmese boy was abducted in Rangoon Division over two months ago at a wharf when he returned from a boat trip with his family. He was thrown in the back of a truck driven by a man possibly in military uniform; eight other boys were in the vehicle. The boys were taken to a plantation that may have been producing physic nuts. The boy reported to ILO that he was placed in a barracks with around 100 other boys aged 13-15. The individuals running the plantation did not wear military uniforms.

¶2. (C) Marshall said that after spending six months working on the plantation, the boy and four others escaped through a hole in the roof of the barracks at night. The youths then split up. The ILO complainant walked one hour before catching a bus and traveling 90 minutes to the outer suburbs of Rangoon. The boy reunited with his family, which reported the incident to ILO.

ILO Pressing GOB to Investigate

¶3. (C) Marshall confirmed that the ILO has dispatched its investigators to search for the plantation and has passed case details to Police Colonel Sit Aye, the Secretary of Burma's Anti-trafficking Task Force. The boy was able to describe in detail the plantation and barracks, and he remembered the number of the bus he took upon escape. Marshall will monitor GOB efforts to investigate, but noted that government action will depend largely on who owns the plantation. If it is affiliated with the GOB, it likely already has been closed, Marshall believes. If it is not, the GOB might conduct a legitimate investigation.
DINGER